OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONFRONTING HOMELESSNESS. WE PROVIDE ACCESS TO STABLE HOUSING AND DELIVER COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES THAT ACT AS A CATALYST TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES.
Dear Friends,

2020 was a year unlike any other. I became Executive Director of La Casa Norte in February of 2020, a few weeks before our entire world was upended. The COVID-19 global pandemic took a toll on all of us. But by far, the individuals most impacted were the ones who were already facing poverty, health inequities, and years of systemic disinvestment—the youth and families we serve. They took major hit after major hit—facing record high unemployment rates, food shortages, and lack of healthcare during a public health crisis. Many had to “shelter in place” without even having a place to call home.

At La Casa Norte, we not only kept our doors open but we doubled down on our commitment to the communities we support. When 112 food pantries closed their doors at the start of the pandemic, we created additional food access points on the West and South Sides of Chicago. When shelters citywide had to reduce capacity to meet new social distancing guidelines, we partnered with the City of Chicago to open a seventy-bed, 24/7, shelter for youth at the height of the pandemic. When COVID-19 infection rates hit record highs, we partnered with advocacy groups and local organizers to increase testing, provide COVID-19 safety education, and distribute PPE to help reduce the spread in our community. In true alignment with our values, as the needs of our community changed, we adapted and expanded our work to meet those needs. Because of the agility and dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, we grew from supporting 5,000 individuals in 2019 to over 18,000 individuals in 2020.

As you read this annual report, please remember that although the threat of the global pandemic has lessened for many, the communities we support are still struggling. We will continue to evolve the work we do to meet these ongoing, and critical needs—with your help. Whether it is by helping individuals maintain housing through our rental assistance work, coordinating vaccination efforts, or our growing advocacy work, La Casa Norte continues to ensure that our youth and communities have the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you to all who supported our mission this year. La Casa Norte assisted more youth and families than we ever have before—during one of the toughest years in our history. As difficult as this year was, it also brought a renewed sense of hope to our mission and served as further proof that there is nothing we cannot do together. As you flip through these pages, please take a moment to reflect on our collective impact. Thank you all. You are La Casa Norte. You are the reason we can continue this critical, life-saving work. You are hope.
OUR PROGRAMS

Permanent Housing Programs
- Palante Scattered Site Supportive Housing
- Pierce House Project-based Program
- Housing Advocacy Program
- Rapid Rehousing
- Youth In College

Transitional Housing Programs
- Solid Ground Housing Program

Emergency Housing Programs
- Casa Corazon
  - Overnight Emergency Beds
  - Drop-in Centers

Health & Nutrition
- Nutrition Center
  - Fresh Market in Partnership with Lakeview Pantry
  - Community Meal Program
- Howard Brown Health Center
- Information and Referrals

INDIVIDUALS SERVED: 18,618
MEALS SERVED: 20,489
HOUSEHOLDS REMAINED STABILY HOUSED: 540
DISTRIBUTED IN CASH ASSISTANCE: $334,476
When Luz Lopez was diagnosed with COVID-19, the most difficult part for her was having to take care of herself first when she wanted to keep serving her community.

Luz is a longtime resident of Humboldt Park and both a client and a volunteer at La Casa Norte. Once a month, she picks up groceries from our Fresh Market in Partnership with Lakeview Pantry. She also picks up groceries for her mother as well as some of the neighbors in their building.

Luz shares, “I feel blessed that I’m strong enough to be able to help [my mom] in her daily needs.”

Along with her mom and neighbors, Luz takes pride in serving all the Humboldt Park residents who visit La Casa Norte’s Nutrition Center for groceries and meals. She is a key volunteer who helped our Nutrition Center not only remain open but expand its services during the pandemic.

“I was out of work for about a month, so I knew that I was going to be behind on my bills, and I didn’t have enough money for food. But knowing the resources that La Casa Norte offers, I was able to take advantage of those services.”

Thankfully, Luz was able to receive support from La Casa Norte during this time, so both her and her mom didn’t have to worry about running out of food or missing bills while Luz needed to focus on feeling better.

“Without La Casa Norte’s Fresh Market, people will go hungry in silence.”

Luz’s passion for serving her community serves as a beacon of hope in times of struggle. It is through her that her mother, neighbors, and everyone she serves at La Casa Norte’s Nutrition Center are able to receive fresh groceries and healthy meals. Because of Luz, our community is able to feel supported and hopeful for a better tomorrow.

Scan the code to watch a video of Luz’s story!
At the onset of the pandemic, more than 112 food pantries closed in Chicago. To ensure our community still received fresh groceries and healthy meals, our Fresh Market in Partnership with Lakeview Pantry extended its hours by opening an additional third day each week, as well as hosting several Pop-Up Food Pantries in Back of the Yards with our community partners. As a result, we distributed groceries and meals to more than 9,774 individuals.

At the height of the pandemic, the City of Chicago turned to La Casa Norte to staff an emergency youth shelter - the only one in the City. We teamed up with the McCormick YMCA to create 70 beds for youth to shelter-in-place. In 2020, more than 299 youth and families had a bed in our overnight shelters.

From providing more than $300K in cash assistance to distributing more than 8,940 PPE & hygiene items to distributing winter coats on the Southside of Chicago for the first time, we expanded our services to provide the support our community needed during this unprecedented time.

Our mission has always been to meet people where they are. This year, we expanded our services to do exactly that.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- 61 Chicago neighborhoods served
- 1,600 winter coats distributed
- $16,908 in college scholarships distributed
- 477 individuals accessed our emergency beds & drop-in centers
- 8,940 PPE & hygiene items distributed
- $31.9 million in potential funding to our community from our 2020 census efforts
- 915 volunteers engaged
- 61 Chicago neighborhoods served
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THE CORE OF HOPE

ACUERDOS (CORE VALUES)
WE VALUE THE BELIEF THAT WHEN WE:

- WORK COLLABORATIVELY
- DEMONSTRATE EMPATHY
- CULTIVATE MUTUAL RESPECT
- PROVIDE ACCESS TO RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES
- CREATE A JUST EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PEOPLE

THE RESULT IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE CHANGE WITHIN THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

REVENUE
*UNAUDITED

Government 51.7%
$4,050,955.65

Foundations & Corporations 32.2%
$2,522,931.56

Fundraising & Development 7.2%
$471,969.00

Individuals & Other 16%
$1,255,723.44

EXPENSES
*UNAUDITED

Youth & Family Programs 67.9%
$4,511,849.00

Management & General 15.9%
$1,057,000.00

Community Programs 9%
$599,000.00

For a full list of donors, visit: www.lacasanorte.org/financials

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INSPIRE HOPE
STAY CONNECTED WITH US IN 2021!

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer - We have volunteer opportunities for everyone! Join us with friends, coworkers, or family. Email Volunteer@LaCasaNorte.org to get involved.

Newsletter - Receive email updates to keep up to date with La Casa Norte! Sign up at http://bit.ly/LCNNewsletter

WAYS TO GIVE

Monthly Giving - Donating monthly assures that our programs receive consistent funding all year long! Join our monthly giving program at WWW.LaCasaNorte.org/Donate

Matching Gifts - Double your impact! Ask your employer if they’ll match your charitable gift.

In-Kind Needs - Donating hygiene supplies, food, clothes, and other items is a great way to support our programs! View our wish lists at WWW.LaCasaNorte.org/Program-Needs

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